

REMARKS

The final Office Action mailed December 1, 2004, has been carefully studied. Upon entry of the amendment presented above, the claims in the application will be only claims 1-3, which claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103, and therefore should be allowed. Favorable reconsideration, entry of the amendments presented above, and formal allowance are all respectfully requested.

The amendment presented above should be entered as it raises no new issues and would reduce the issues on appeal, if an appeal were to become necessary. Claim 1 as amended above is similar in scope to previous claims 4 and 7.

Claims 1-7 have been again rejected as obvious under Section 103 from Nakashima in view of JP '570. This rejection is again respectfully traversed.¹

The invention claimed in the amended claims (hereinafter "the claimed invention") provides a copper base alloy suitable for use as a material for a sliding member consisting of, by mass %, 15 to 25% Zn, 4.2 to 10% Bi, 2 to 7% Mn, 1 to 3% Si, 0.05 to 0.3% Se, optionally 0.01 to 0.2% B,

¹ Applicants do not abandon their arguments set forth in the preceding Reply, and applicants respectfully reserve the right to reassert such arguments in the future, if same should become necessary or desirable.

and balance of Cu and unavoidable impurities, the alloy having a structure of which its matrix is composed of α -single phase, wherein a eutectic structure of the α -single phase and an Mn-Si compound and Bi particles are distributed throughout the matrix.

The claimed invention excludes Pb which contaminates the environment, and contains Bi instead of Pb thereby to achieve high anti-seizure property, wear resistance, frictional property and conformability. Furthermore, the claimed invention contains 0.05 to 0.3% Se by mass so that diffusion and refinement of Bi in the matrix are enhanced. By selective addition of 0.01 to 0.2% B, refinement of crystal grain is further enhanced.

Neither Nakashima nor Nakashima modified in any possible way by JP '560 reaches the claimed subject matter, nor would there be any further obvious modification which would reach the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, applicants' claims define novel and unobvious subject matter over the prior art, and the rejection should be withdrawn. Such is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that all issues have been addressed above and resolved in favor of patentability. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request favorable

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reconsideration, entry of the amendments presented above, and
allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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